

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 233240

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS STATE 233240

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, SG

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. SMITHSONIAN STAFF FOLKLORIST DR. BERNICE REAGON
ARRIVING DAKAR FROM KINSHASA 29 OCTOBER, 0100 HOURS,
PANAM FLIGHT 183; DEPARTING 30 OCTOBER, 0155 HOURS,
PANAM FLIGHT 187. HOTEL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED AND
WOULD APPRECIATE MEETING PLANE.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO INVITE SENEGAL TO PARTICIPATE
IN 1976 FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE BY SENDING GROUP
OF 25 FOLK ARTISTS (MUSICIANS, DANCERS, SINGERS,
CRAFTSPERSONS) PLUS ONE GUIDING FOLKLORIST (PREFERABLY
ENGLISH-SPEAKING) AND ONE TOUR ADMINISTRATOR (ENGLISH
REQUIRED), TO PERFORM ON THE MALL, WASHINGTON, FOR TWO
WEEKS AND THEN TOUR FOR TWO OR THREE WEEKS JOINING
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF FOUR OR SIX CITIES.

3. SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT BEING ASKED TO FUND ASSEMBLING
GROUP IN DAKAR PRIOR DEPARTURE AND PREPARING THEM FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 233240

TRIP. SMITHSONIAN FUNDS INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE, STATESIDE

TRAVEL, BOARD, LODGING, TEN DOLLARS POCKET MONEY DAILY
PER PARTICIPANT.

4. SIX AFRICAN AND SIX CARIBBEAN NATIONS BEING INVITED TO

PERFORM TWO WEEKS EACH DURING TWELVE WEEK FESTIVAL.
SENEGAL TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED EITHER FINAL WEEKS, 22
AUGUST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5 OR ELSE 11 TO 25 JULY,
APPEARING WITH EITHER GUYANA OR TRINIDAD/TOBAGO AND
VARIETY OF AMERICAN FOLK ARTISTS CARRYING ON SIMILAR
CULTURAL TRADITIONS TO ILLUSTRATE CONTINUITY OF BLACK
CULTURE OVER THREE CONTINENTS.

5. SMITHSONIAN CONSULTING FOLKLORIST WILL CONDUCT ONE
WEEK OR MORE FIELD RESEARCH IN LATE NOVEMBER, WORKING
WITH FOLKLORIST OR CULTURAL OFFICIAL DESIGNATED BY
SENEGALESE. AMONG CONTACTS ON VISIT EARLY 1975, REAGON
WOULD LIKE TO CONFER AGAIN IF POSSIBLE WITH DR. AMADOU
DIAW, DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND LETTERS, MINISTRY OF CULTURE;
MR. MAURICE SENGHOR, DIRECTOR OF BALLET AND CRAFTS
VILLAGE. REAGON WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY MEET ANY OTHER
FOLKLORE AUTHORITIES IN MUSIC, DANCE, CRAFTS, POST
MIGHT SUGGEST WHO ARE ALSO RECOGNIZED BY OFFICIALDOM.

6. REAGON WILL HAVE OFFICIAL SMITHSONIAN INVITATION TO
PRESENT TO SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT. SMITHSONIAN HOPES GIVE
ONE COPY TO SENEGALESE EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, FOR THEIR
TRANSMITTAL TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HOWEVER,
EMBASSY CURRENTLY SHORT STAFFED BECAUSE OF U.N. GENERAL
ASSEMBLY COMMITMENTS. IF MEETING DOES TAKE PLACE,
SUBSEQUENT CABLE WILL ADVISE ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
THEY SUGGEST TO REAGON.

7. SMITHSONIAN MAILING TO USIS COPY OF INVITATION,
FESTIVAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS, REAGON BIO DATA. WILL
APPRECIATE USIS ACCOMPANYING REAGON TO OFFICIAL CALL(S)
AND WELCOME POST GUIDANCE AND COOPERATION. INGERSOLL

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